

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 025457  
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /022 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:JFTEFFT:MR

APPROVED BY IO:TLYNCY

AF/I:JWHITING

-----040420Z 050201 /75

O 040209Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025457

FOL REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 265 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 1 FEB.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0265

DEPT PLS REPEAT AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH AFRICAN REPS JANUARY 31

1. AT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REQUEST, HE MET WITH FIVE MEMBERS OF AFRICAN GROUP AT OAU OBSERVER OFFICE, AFTERNOON JANUARY 31. PRESENT WERE OAU OBSERVER REP OUATTARA, PERM REP SALIM OF TANZANIA, PERM REP RAMPHUL OF MAURITIUS (REPRESENTING OAU PRESIDENCY), MOROCCAN PERM REP BENGELLOUN (AFRICAN GROUP CHAIRMAN FOR JANUARY), AND NIGERIAN ACTING PERM REP GEORGE.

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2. ALL PRESENT WELCOMED AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP PERSONAL SATISFACTION WITH HIS APPOINTMENT. BENGELLOUN CONVEYED SPECIAL AFRICAN CONCERN OVER PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. AMBASSADOR YOUNG REPLIED THAT IF HE DID NOT THINK PROGRESS ON THESE QUESTIONS WERE POSSIBLE, HE WOULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED HIS APPOINTMENT. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO HIS TRIP TO AFRICA IN ORDER TO GAIN

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT AFRICA WANTS OF US. PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY DESIRES FORWARD PROGRESS CONCERNING RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA. WHILE WE ARE WILLING TO BE INVOLVED, THE QUESTION IS HOW. BENGELLOUN AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE PROBLEM, ADDING THAT ALTHOUGH THE AFRICANS HAD BEEN HOPEFUL CONCERNING THE "KISSINGER PLAN" AND AMBASSADOR RICHARD'S EFFORTS, IAN SMITH HAD CHANGED LITTLE: THE US NOW HAS A BIG ROLE TO PLAY.

3. AMBASSADOR SALIM EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG FOR HIS HAVING CHOSEN TO CALL ON THE AFRICANS AT THE OAU OFFICE: AFRICAN EXPECTATIONS, HOPES, AND ASPIRATIONS "ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY JUSTIFIED". SALIM THEN OBSERVED THAT UNTIL LAST FALL, AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD AFRICA EITHER WAS LACKING OR WAS NEGATIVE. NO AFRICAN COUNTRY HAS AN "AUTOMATIC POLICY". PRINCIPLES OPPOSING COLONIALISM AND RACISM UNITE THE AFRICANS. IF ONE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THAT UNIFYING BOND, CONFLICT IS BOUND TO TAKE PLACE. SALIM NOTED THAT WHILE THE QUESTIONS OF NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA WERE INDEED CRITICAL, SOUTH AFRICA WAS AT THE CENTER OF THE PROBLEM. COMMENTING ON THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, HE DESCRIBED GETTING THE NATIONALISTS TO ATTEND AS HAVING BEEN AN EVEN GREATER PROBLEM THAN SMITH'S PARTICIPATION. HE AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG THAT RHODESIAN "FOREIGN MINISTER" VAN DER BYL'S RACIST COMMENTS WERE DELIBERATELY PROVOCATIVE, BUT FAILED TO SPLIT THE NATIONALISTS OR TO CAUSE THEM TO WALK OUT. SALIM OBSERVED THAT THE WEST OUGHT NOT TO PLACE TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE ON SMITH. THE SOLUTION IN RHODESIA MUST BE FORCED EITHER  
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BY (A) ARMED STRUGGLE OR (B) INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE, APPLIED BY THE WEST AND THE US. FURTHER, CONCERNING NAMIBIA, THE WEST MUST LEARN THAT IT CANNOT "TRADE THINGS", I.E., SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT BE TREATED AS A PARTNER IN WESTERN EFFORTS TO EFFECT CHANGE IN EITHER NAMIBIA OR RHODESIA.

4. MAURITIUS PERM REP RAMPHUL URGED REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE OAU AFRICANS HAD BEEN WILLING TO ENTER INTO DIALOGUE WITH SMITH, RHODESIA'S POLICY CONTINUED TO BE ONE OF AGGRESSION. HE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF US POLICY TOWARD NAMIBIA, POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE US REGARDING AFRICA, BEYOND THE SPECTRUM OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONCERNS, AND INVITED AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO MAURITIUS.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG DESCRIBED HIS MEETING AS ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY LONGER MEETINGS WHICH HE PLANNED WITH AFRICANS AT THE UN. HE CONFIRMED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S

COMMITMENT TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND CONVEYED HIS INTENTION TO TALK WITH LEADERS OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA AND TO DRAW ON INCREASED AMERICAN PUBLIC INTEREST IN AFRICA. IN REPLY TO AMBASSADOR RAMPHUL'S QUESTION, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF US SUPPORT FOR IAN SMITH, NOR ANY LIKELIHOOD OF US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE CITED SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS CONCERNING THIS MATTER, MORNING JANUARY 31.

6. LASTLY, AMBASSADOR SALIM SAID THAT SPEAKING VERY FRANKLY, HE WAS WORRIED BY A TENDENCY TO MISUNDERSTAND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. SINCE AFRICAN STATES DO NOT PRODUCE ARMS, AND THE US WILL NOT SELL THEM TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THE LATTER MUST TURN ELSEWHERE FOR THEM; THIS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, NECESSARILY COLOR THEIR POLITICAL LEANING. SALIM CALLED FOR FUTURE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSIONS WITH UN AFRICANS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH IS "ESSENTIALLY AN AFRICAN PROBLEM" AND ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE PRAISED SECRETARY VANCE'S JANUARY 31 STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AND AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG THAT WHILE DISAGREEMENTS ARE BOUND TO COME UP BETWEEN THE AFRICANS AND THE US AT THE UN, WITH A "COMMUNITY OF INTEREST" COOPERATION AND PROGRESS WERE MORE LIKELY.

7. CLOSING THE MEETING, OUATTARA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PREPARE A PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING THE MEETING. YOUNG

UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009